

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	EAS.108
Historic Name:	Higgins, Capt. Zara House
Common Name:	
Address:	345 Aspinet Rd
City/Town:	Eastham
Village/Neighborhood:	North Eastham
Local No:	05-355A
Year Constructed:	c 1827
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	No style
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Cedar Shingle Wall: Wood Shingle; Wood Foundation: Brick



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

P1 N-EAST

EAS.108

Massachusetts Historical Commission
 Massachusetts Archives Building
 220 Morrissey Boulevard
 Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's
 Number

05/355A

USGS Quad

Orleans

Area(s)

Form Number

108

Town

Eastham



neighborhood or village)

345 Aspinet Road

c Name Captain Zara and
 Betsey (Cobb) Higgins Residence

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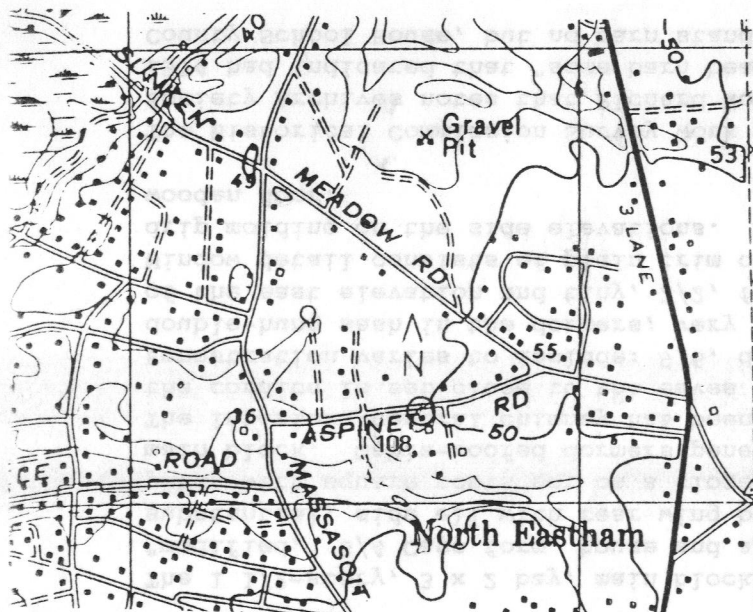
Construction c. 1827

See Bibliography*

orm Modified Cape

ct/Builder

here. Indicate North.



Exterior Material:

Foundation Brick

Wall/Trim Shingle

Roof Cedar Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates) Side wing and
 rear ell added (dates unknown).

Condition Good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage .58 acres

Setting Located on a secondary street in
 a moderately-settled, residential area
 immediately west of an unimproved road
 (Devon Lane) and west of the fork at
 Aspinet and Sunken Meadow Roads.

Recorded by: Dianne L. Siergiej

Organization: Commonwealth Collaborative

Date: February 1995

RECEIVED

SEP 20 1995

MASS. HIST. COMM.

BUILDING FORM

345 Aspinet Road

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION See continuation sheet.

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The 1 1/2-story, 3 x 2 bay, main block of this single house is a typical "modified," 3/4 Cape form, house and a half. In this case, not only has a substantial, side ell with rear wing been added to the east, but a full-width porch with square posts set on a closed rail now spans the facade of the main block. Gable-roofed dormers penetrate the front slope of the gable roof. The interior, central chimney has been rebuilt. Detail is severely limited: the cornice is set close to the eaves and end boards denote corners. Fenestration varies to include: 9/6, double-hung sash on the facade; 6/6 double-hung sash in the dormers; very narrow, 4/4 windows on the second level of the east elevation and tiny, 2/2, fixed windows in the west gable. Window detail consists of plain trim on the facade and side ell, but includes drip molding on the side elevations. The main entry contains a 6-panel, wooden door.

The Historical Commission Survey work sheet on file at the Eastham Historical Society Archives notes that Richard Novak, owner of the property from 1962 to 1974 had indicated that "some barn beams" were from the original Barnstable County School House, but no barn stands on the site today.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE X See continuation sheet.

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Research collected by the Eastham Historical Society including a title search by Ruth E. May attributes this property to Zara (also Zarah and Zarcy) Higgins who for thirty dollars purchased (Bk. 8; Pg. 30) a piece of cleared land in 1828 (acreage not cited) for a building lot from Elkanah Cobb, his father in law who lived nearby at 435 Aspinet Road (see Form No. 109).

Zara Higgins (b. Eastham, September 15, 1801; d. Eastham, October 15, 1874), the son of Zaccacheus and Hannah (Twinning) Higgins, was a seventh generation descendant of Richard Higgins, one of the seven, original settlers from Plymouth Colony who in 1644 moved to Nauset (Eastham after 1651).

Zara Higgins married Betsey Cobb (b. 1803; d. Eastham, February 17, 1885), daughter of Elkanah and Jerusha Cobb on June 3, 1824. In 1836, Zara Higgins was assessed for poll, cash and income of \$350. The next year his money

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES X See continuation sheet.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;

If checked, see attached National Register Criteria Statement form.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

345 Aspinet Road
Eastham

Area Form No. 108

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

and income were assessed at \$600. In 1828, Zara Higgins was assessed for cash, income of \$150 and buildings and land valued at \$600. By 1861, however, his holding had expanded to include 1 dwelling, 1 barn, a corn house, a store house, 29 acres of home lot and tillage, 10 acres of woodland, 4 acres of salt meadow and 1 ton of English mowing.

Zara Higgins, listed as "mariner" on several deeds, was a ship's captain between 1824 and 1841 involved in coastal, West Indian, South American and European trade. He sailed schooners and brigs carrying common commodities of sugar, coffee, molasses, rice, cotton, fish, flour and produce. On his permanent return to Eastham, he served as Selectman from 1846 to his death. He is buried in the Congregational and Soldiers Cemetery on Route 6 in Eastham. The Eastham Historical Society has a collection of the papers of Captain Zara Higgins.

In his will dated December 28, 1838, Zara Higgins left all his personal and real property to his wife, Betsy Cobb Higgins, as long as she remained his widow, provided she furnish proportional support (with his surviving brothers) to his mother. The latter, however, predeceased Zara Higgins, who also stipulated that if his wife ceased to be his widow, she retained only one-third of the estate and the remainder passed to his sister, "Polly," (b. Mary Twinning Higgins). Polly, although remaining unmarried, conveyed ((Bk. 116; Pg. 501) the property left her by her brother to Betsey Higgins for \$50 six weeks after Zara Higgins' death.

Subsequent owners recorded in the chain of title researched by the Eastham Historical Society include: (148:91) Edward W. and Florida Childs, 1881-1888; (179:173) Laban W. and Mary E. Turner, 1888-1910; (300:347) Chester Pierce, 1910-1937; (will of Chester Pierce) Jessie Pierce 1937-1947 and (will of Jessie Pierce) Frank and Agnus Shafer 1947-1962. No information in local sources was found on any of these succeeding owners. Mrs. Mary E. Turner is recorded as a resident of Cross Road (now Aspinet Road) in the Eastham Directory of 1901.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Howard W. Quinn, "Capt. Zara Higgins House," Prepared January 1968, Eastham Historical Society Vertical File, Eastham Public Library.
The Cap Codder, February 27, 1987, p. 11.

Mrs. Katharine Chapin Higgins, Richard Higgins: A Resident and Pioneer Settler at Plymouth and Eastham, Massachusetts, and at Piscataway, New Jersey and His Descendants, Worcester: Printed for the Author, 1918, p. 358.

_____. Supplement to Richard Higgins and His Descendants by Mrs. Katherine Chapin Higgins, Worcester: Katherine Higgins, 1924, p. 84.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

345 Aspinet Road
Eastham

Area Form No. 108

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (continued)

- Map of the Town of Eastham, 1794
Map of the Town of Eastham, 1830
Walker, George F. Atlas of Barnstable County. Boston:
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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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